



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE TEACHING

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ABSTRACT

Literature and language are like the two sides of the coin. It is impossible to imagine literature without language, as it is the medium to exchange information. English language is more important in communicating with others. Even though English is not our mother tongue we the Indians are depending for everything on English language like in Business, Education and Employment. Skill is the aptitude or the inherent talent which every individual possess. To get proficiency in English Communication skills are learnt by the Indians. The (LSRW) listening, speaking, Reading and writing skills are interdependent on each other and important in communication skills. Every human being uses language which shows the difference between man and animal. Man is a social animal, he need to get socializing in the society. The new born child expresses the needs with gestures before learning a language. Literature possesses inspirational short stories, dramas related to war and love, thought-provoking poems which brings awareness in the readers. Literature adds beauty to language. English language teaching is a herculean task to teachers because mother tongue influence plays a major role. Literature broadens students' horizons by giving them knowledge of the classics of literature. It stimulate students' creative, cultural and literary imagination and to develop their appreciation of literature. Literature shows different types of characters in its own style. Literature has been proven as a great tool to approach English language and English culture. Literature gives many new words, learning these words helps in the improvement of vocabulary in language. Literature is a complex art. Learning is a life- long continuous process. It starts from womb and ends to tomb. Literature can be studied under various classifications such as time period, geographical locations, nature, etc. and as American literature, French literature, Colonial literature, medieval literature, Modern literature, Romantic period, etc. Literature teaches us how to live. Literature makes the reader visit places, experience events, meet people, listen to them, feel their joys and sufferings. It mirrors the society and its mannerisms.

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INTRODUCTION

Literature and language are like the two sides of the coin. It is impossible to imagine literature without language, as it is the medium to exchange information. English language is more important in communicating with others. Even though English is not our mother tongue we the Indians are depending for everything on English language like in Business, Education and Employment. Skill is the aptitude or the inherent talent which every individual possess. To get proficiency in English Communication skills are learnt by the Indians. The (LSRW) listening, speaking, Reading and writing skills are interdependent on each other and important in communication skills. Every human being uses language which shows the difference between man and animal. Man is a social animal, he need to get socializing in the society. The new born child expresses the needs with gestures before learning a language. Literature possesses inspirational short stories, dramas related to war and love, thought- provoking poems which brings awareness in the readers. Literature is a term that can be defined as written and sometimes spoken material. As a subject, it can be simply defined as the study of written work.

Literature is defined as artistic works with a high and lasting artistic value. Literature is categorized according to various forms like fiction, non-fiction, verse, prose. Major literary forms are poems, drama, novel, and short story. Literature can be studied under various classifications such as time period, geographical locations, nature, etc. and as American literature, French literature, Colonial literature, medieval literature, Modern literature, Romantic period, etc.

Literature teaches us how to live. Literature makes the reader visit places, experience events, meet people, listen to them, feel their joys and sufferings. It mirrors the society and its mannerisms. Literature is important in everyday life because it connects individuals with larger truths and ideas in a society.

Literary tradition is both oral and written. Civilizations that existed without a written language still managed to pass down their stories through oral telling. Many Native American cultures practice an oral literary tradition. The main use of literature in ancient settings was to pass down customs, beliefs and traditions to the younger generations. In more recent centuries, literature has taken on a more exhaustive role of mirroring society in order for humans to study themselves and understand the underlying truths common to all people. English language teaching is a herculean task to teachers because mother tongue influence plays a major role. For

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students, studying literature is a critical component in education and it is a complex art, as it teaches students to see them reflected in art. This allows people to learn about the reality of life. Literature also helps people to see life from the perspective of another. Identity-based literature teaches the reader what life is like for others, helping them to be more understanding and respectful of those around them.

Literature has not only many functions, but power. Many experts identify this power. Kelly (1996) has rightly said that: 'Some of the major values of (children) literature are enjoyment, aesthetics, understanding, imagination, information and knowledge, cognition, and language' – (8).

Literature also instigates cognition. Literature is a way of thinking it serves as a source of knowledge and a sounding board for children reasoning. All lit stimulates thinking by giving readers substance for reflection, this facilitates cognitive development (Kelly, 1996: 10).

In language teaching, literature provides language model. Language and thinking are so closely (Kelly, 1996:11) interrelated that the ability to think for one's self depends on one's mastery of the language (Kelly, 1996:11).

Literature gives many new words, learning these words helps in the improvement of vocabulary in language. Literature is a complex art. Learning is a life- long continuous process. It starts from womb and ends to tomb. Language is medium of communication. Literature adds something in the beauty of language. Literature develops the interest of reading. Message is passed through the medium of poem or drama or other form of literature. The forms of literature are the garnish of language. Language will become effective or in resting with the decoration of literature. Language is an abstract system of symbols and meanings governed by grammatical rules.

Language can be mainly divided into two sections: oral language and written language. There are also many study areas of language such as phonology, morphology. It is our advanced language ability that set us apart from other species on earth. Language is a fascinating art which is expressed through literature. Though it is governed by a set of rules, language is not a static thing; it evolves and changes every moment. Meanings of some words change over time. Some words go out of use while some new words take their place. Language and Literature are two words that appear similar in their purport but strictly speaking they are not so. Language is the fundamental unit of literature. In other words it can be said that language makes literature. Literature is produced by the creation of works in a particular language by the writers of the language. A language on the other hand is a mode of expression of thought by means of articulate sounds. This is the main difference between language and literature. A language comprises of sounds, words and sentences. Literature has several forms. Each of these forms is called a literary form. The various literary forms are poetry, prose, drama, epic, free verse, short story and novel. If language is the canvas then literature is the painting. It is usually language that influences literature, but to an extent, literature can influence language as well, just as with all kinds of art that affect us culturally and semantically. Language informs how literature is written like different ideas about how to use language can be seen in literature from different time periods. Likewise, Literature can offer new words, new idioms, etc. into the language.

This quotation resumes in one sentence about Literature: 'Literature will increase all language skills because literature will extend linguistic knowledge' - Povey (1972:18)

The difference between Language and Literature

Language can be simply defined as the study of sounds, words, and sentences whereas literature is the study of written work. ... The main difference between language and literature is that language deals with both spoken and written aspects whereas literature mainly deals with written work. Language throughout time has been created by literature. There is not spoken word without first there being written word from which it has derived from. Language is the basics. This includes grammar, punctuation etc.

In literature, language is conscientiously crafted, not just to inform a reader but to persuade him. In theory, with the right rhetorical devices you can write one thing but make a reader think something else.

Models to Use Literature

Carter and Long (1991:2-3) propose three models to justify the use of Literature.

1. Cultural model : It represents the Literature to bring into the picture as the understanding and appreciation of different cultures and ideologies together with the developing of one's perception of feelings and artistic forms. 2. Language model: This model highlights the fact that language is the literary medium and that literature could be seen as an instrument to teach specific vocabulary and structures. 3. Personal growth model: It focuses on students engaging with the reading of literary texts, appreciating and evaluating cultural blend and the understanding of our society.

'Literature, in addition, has experienced a revival with the advent of communicative approach in language teaching as it provides learners with authentic, pleasurable and cultural material' - (Hall, 2005:47-57).

Literature just adds to reality, it does not simply describe it. It enriches the necessary competencies that daily life requires and provides; and in this respect, it irrigates the deserts that our lives have already become' C.S.Lewis (British Scholar and Novelist, 1898-1963). Traditionally, the role of Literature was not taken into consideration in English Language Teaching programs due to the importance given only to functional language. Today, Literature in second language classes has a very important linguistic input for students and it is a valuable source for learners' motivation.

English has become an International important language, more and more people are studying it. 'The study of literature allows people to develop new ideas and ethical standpoints, and can help individuals to present themselves as educated members of society. Studying literature can be enriching, eye-opening experience' - (Joshua Cruz, eHow contributor, www.eHow.com).

Teachers are the basic pillars to reach students through literature trying to attract them to this field that can be interesting to everyone.

Importance of Literature in English Language Teaching

Literature develops students' perspectives by giving them knowledge of the classics of literature. It encourages students'

creative, cultural and literary imagination and to develop their appreciation of literature. Literary texts are often rich in multiple layers of meaning, and can be effectively mined for discussions and sharing feelings or opinions. Literature expands language awareness and educates the whole person. By examining values in literary texts, teachers encourage learners to develop attitudes towards them. These values and attitudes relate to the world outside the classroom. Students can learn the context and meaning of famous quotes and phrases to improve their lexicon and can improve not only language such as vocabulary, but also the language that can be used for specific purposes. English Literature makes students learn about their creativity and imagination, interacting with the text themselves, and playing different literary roles. Students can live literature not only read it. Plays can be represented so that students can be immersed in a different time and into a different person. By following the histories presented throughout English Literature, it is possible to understand how contemporary Western culture has developed into what it is today.

'The study of literature offers many ways to improve literacy: it gives access to language, reading, writing, a shared culture and one's own self' - (J. Trounstein, "Literature in Prison?").

The use of authentic literary texts gives learners the opportunity to connect to real world issues at the time they can learn true values for their lives. Literature is invaluable in teaching to think its originality. Whether the literature is realistic, naturalistic, comedy, or it can take any other form, it leaves its tendrils of imagery, character, and consequence that recreate a new, recognisable pattern in the world.

CONCLUSION

Literature has been proven as a great tool to approach English language and English culture. English language teaching brings closer to the culture and customs. Teachers should make literature interesting for students. It helps to see patterns, structures, connections and truths that had been hidden in the literal world. Literature makes to learn a language easily. We cannot ignore any one of them, as language and literature are interdependent on each other. Literature helps the English language teacher to teach language with easy way of expression. No discipline, even the scientific method, does as much to teach us how to think by merging the complexity of life with the order of the universe. Literature is a mirror of the society. In literature the stories or poems are completed and add beauty to it with the help of a graceful language. Usage of idioms and phrasal verbs adds spice to the language. English language is learnt for accomplishment and advancement to enrich our professional life. From edge of the world to barycentre of the life spin, all things are labeled in literature.

Subject of feelings are prescribed in the form of stories, narrations, incidents, poetry are the adjective of literature which qualifies the conditions and act of the people. English language has gained its importance as a window to the world in this era of globalization.

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